



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Nardello, Chairman Fonfara and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

For the record, my name is Christopher Wright and I am the State Representative for the 77th District representing the city of Bristol. I am before you today to speak in favor of SB 448, **An Act Concerning Cable Television Equipment and the Disclosure of Rates for Certain Services Offered by Telephone and Cable Companies**. This is, I believe, an important bill in promoting both consumer protection and business competition here in our state.

As I am sure you are aware, customers of cable companies in Connecticut are required to rent any equipment necessary to receive this service from the cable company. These include cable boxes, modems, DVRs, remotes and other devices. The intention of this bill is to allow customers to purchase this equipment, if they so choose, rather than pay monthly rental charges. My intention in requesting this bill was to allow the purchase of this equipment from outside sources, such as electronic stores or on-line, and I would request that this language be added to Section 1 of the bill. This change will not only allow cable customers the ability to choose what equipment they use, an ability they do not currently have, but will also create competition in a business where none currently exists.

Decades ago, the rule requiring people to rent their telephones from the phone company was abolished, creating to greater freedom for consumers and great leaps in technology due to the introduction of competition. It is time to do the same with cable television.

Christopher A. Wright

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher A. Wright".

State Representative – 77th District